

Press-Herald

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A Salute to AFS

Once again several Torrance residents are opening their homes to foreign students who will be studying in local high schools this year under the American Field Service program.

And several Torrance students are returning to this city after a summer of travel and study in other nations, where they lived with families and were given the opportunity to learn something of life in those nations.

The experiences they have, the sounds they hear, and the sights they see will help mold opinions of youths in their home nations after they return. They are ambassadors in the true sense of the word since they will tell of their cultures and homelands in countless speaking engagements throughout the city in the year to come.

Meanwhile, they will get a real "taste" of their foster country by participating in regular family and school affairs.

Volunteer workers in the Torrance AFS chapter are to be commended for their efforts in bringing foreign students to the city.

Starting at Home

The Senate Labor Committee recently unanimously approved a bill which would provide emergency food and health services for hardship cases discovered anywhere in the nation.

The bill resulted, at least in part, from disclosures that American families in some cases were living in abject poverty, while we were spending millions for foreign aid and sending poverty help to poor South Koreans, poor South Vietnamese, Latin Americans and others.

No doubt the bill, if enacted into law, will be the beginning of a permanent program (the inevitable bureaucratic evolution) but regardless of that certainty a measure is overdue. There was a time when many of us felt charity began at home but since the United States has become a world power many of us tend to forget the suffering and hardship around us—often in our own backyard.

Recent investigations in certain low-income states have shown that, unfortunately, some families live in altogether unacceptable degradation. This nation should not encourage laziness and welfare — of which we have a considerable amount already — but in cases of genuine need because of circumstances and lack of opportunity this rich nation should not fail to help our own.

Opinions of Others

The space age has made us conscious of the fact that we are all astronauts, whether we want to be or not. The earth itself is a great space vehicle tracing a regular orbit about the sun, while the sun follows an even vaster course through the galaxy. Our ship has a limited amount of room, a limited amount of air, water, land and other essentials of life. One of the most challenging problems that will be encountered in long voyages in man-made spaceships is how to convert waste products back into usable form. The identical problem is beginning to confront earthbound man as his ship gets more crowded.—Cushing (Okla.) Daily Citizen.

In the Washington area a new building has been constructed for the Commerce Department's Bureau of Standards. It was supposed to cost \$65 million. It is not yet completed and the cost is \$107 million. But what really takes the cake in this deal was the erection at the front of the building of a 90-foot, stainless steel flagpole at a cost of \$44,768. A \$550 per foot ought to make the eagle scream in any language.—Congressman H. R. Gross, R-Iowa.

Today you asked me for a job. From the look of your shoulders as you walked out, I suspect you've been turned down before, and maybe you believe by now that kids out of high school can't find work. But, I hired a teenager today. You saw him. He was the one with the polished shoes and necktie. What was so special about him? Not experience, neither of you had any. It was his attitude that put him on the payroll instead of you. Attitude, son; ATTITUDE. He wanted that job badly enough to shuck the leather jacket, get a haircut, and look in the phone book to find out what this company makes. He did his best to impress me. That's where he edged you out.—Delphi (Ind.) Journal-Citizen.

Morning Report:

It has always been great fun to be an arm-chair general, to advise the brass on how to win a war. We the People are now about to take on another major job, foreign policy advisers, by voting in local referendums on whether or not the Vietnam War should be scuttled.

The Constitution provides that the Senate is to advise the President in this field. But a lot of people, including not a few senators, feel it has botched the job. And so, we will advise the Senate, which will then pass on our advice to the President.

The whole thing could start a massive trend if the people can decide foreign policy, why not a lot of other major matters that are decided in the Senate, like the cost of stamps for postcards? Or eventually we might decide we don't need the Senate at all.

Abe Mellinkoff

You'll Never Have to Worry About Fair Elections



HERB CAEN SAYS:

He Nearly Flipped Over The Dashboard Vignette

Herb Raynaud almost had an accident in downtown S.F. While waiting for a signal change, he glanced over at the car alongside, and there on its dashboard were two plastic statuettes — one of the Virgin Mary, the other of Willie Mays! . . . Police Major R. S. Trigg of Baton Rouge, La., during a telephone interview with KSFO News (re the recent pro-Rap Brown demonstration there): "Our nigger community is diabolically opposed to violence, destruction, and disorder." With enlightened and literate officers like the Major, what else?

Ed Fitzharris, who has a son in the Army on Okinawa, wanted to send him a batch of magazines via service mail, and was told by a postal clerk to mark it "Sam." Ed: "What's that mean?" Clerk: "Slow as molasses." (Actually it means "Space Available Mail," and molasses is quite a bit faster) . . . Here we are in Boston with Vern Hansen and his dgthtr, Tara, sealing the historic sites. "Where's the corner of the Boston Massacre?" Vern asks three hippie types. Two shrug. The third: "Why d'you wanna know? They took all the bodies away, y'know" . . . After the Israeli victory, Mrs. Sydney Blottel wrote a fan letter to Gen. Moshe Dayan, and finally received a friendly acknowledgement signed with his title "Minister of Defense Rav-Aluf." Which means, she found by deep research, "Leader of Thousands," a title going back to Mosaic times. (Mrs. F. to her husband: "How come he won the war in six days and it took him a month to answer my letter?" Sydney: "That's how he won.")

Old saying: "A fool and his money are soon parted."

Alan Grey Says . . .

The Governor of Louisiana . . . is wearing quite a frown . . . Since New York beat him to the punch . . . And arrested J. Rap Brown . . . The Governor is unhappy . . . And for a valid reason . . . He wanted Brown within his courts . . . And try him there for treason . . . Instead of all the pampering . . . The thought just came to me . . . They should keep him there in jail . . . And throw away the key.

Does that make him different from anybody else these days? . . . Startling but hardly surprising statistic: the accidental death rate among motorcycle riders is more than four times that of riders in four-wheeled vehicles (I should talk — I'm smoking a cigarette as I type this) . . . Rep. Old Man Rivers explaining why we can't

Report From Our Man In San Francisco

withdraw from Vietnam: "It would be a blow to our national prestige." Can you understand what they're talking about back there in Washington? Our "prestige" (what a way to live) has already sunk out of sight in the quagmire. If we're lucky, and we don't deserve to be, we may be able to salvage a little of it—on the way out . . . Bob Kaufmann defines the mid-Summer Hashbury: "Where middle-aged tourists from Topeka go to stare at teen-aged tourists from Omaha."

John Pardee wonders if the people whose sole solution to our myriad misfortunes is "Support Your Local Police" are able to

WILLIAM HOGAN

Psychedelic 'Snow White' Doesn't Send Him on Trip

Donald Barthelme's eccentric, dazzling little novel, "Snow White" appears to be the literary conversation piece of the year to date. Like so many others, I was bewildered by this display of psychedelic virtuosity when it appeared some months ago in The New Yorker, and became only slightly more charitable toward it after studying the work at closer range in the silence of a summer redwood grove.

Emerging from the woods, I discover that one can trigger an argument among serious readers at the very mention of the Barthelme opus. It has become a fashionable book which one reader will defend as the most original exercise since "Pinnegans Wake" while another will simply wince or groan at the mention of the title.

Few contemporary novels stir this degree of reaction, even John Barth's "Giles Goat-Boy" or "The Sot-Weed Factor," which are heady displays of literary virtuosity, too, but each, loosely, the physical size of "The Brothers Karamazov,"

greet the Negro policeman when he buys the house next door . . . That brings up strife-torn Detroit, and here's Herb Gardner, author of "A Thousand Clowns," chatting with Don Sherwood at Enrico's: "Ever been to Detroit? No? Well, remember how the ancients used to think the world was flat, and that if you traveled far enough you eventually fell over the edge? Well, what you'd fall into is Detroit."

Northwestern National Life's fascinating survey: one out of six U.S. workers refuse to take the annual vacations they're entitled to, for various reasons. Money, of course, and masochism ("I hope you had a good time while I was slaving over this hot desk"). Fear ("The boss might find out he can get along without me"). Thievery (the embezzler has to stick around to keep his tracks covered). Trouble at home ("Two weeks alone with my wife? Eight hours a day away from her is like a week in the country"). Well, the heck with all that: I'm taking a short vacation anyway—with my wife. As for the boss, I want to find out if I can get along without HIM.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Psychedelic 'Snow White' Doesn't Send Him on Trip

a length not conducive to easy cocktail party analysis. At a mere 181 pages, "Snow White" becomes easier to grasp, to love or hate, which suggests that if you are an original writer of talent and want your book talked about, keep it short and bitter.

Browsing Through the World of Books

"Snow White" is based on the original of the same name, a zany black allegory, symbolic. The moody heroine becomes mistress to a band of dwarfs engaged in making vats of Chinese baby food by night. As women seem to do, Snow White introduces an element of misery and despair to the lives of the dwarfs. A wicked stepmother attempts to kill her with a poisoned vodka cocktail, but that is consumed by a local prince who dies instead. Well, things transpire on this level, delighting some readers with the emphasis on "The Lord of the Ring" or the Arthurian tales of T. H. White, while merely irritating others.

CAPITOL NEWSMAKERS

Conservation Director Just Waiting for Rain

By EDWIN S. CAPPS
Capital News Service
SACRAMENTO — It's a long way from a Tulelake potato ranch to a director's office in the big resources agency building in Sacramento.

But James G. Stearns, 45, director of the Department of Conservation in the administration of Governor Ronald Reagan, found little trouble in making the move. For one thing, Stearns was a Modoc County supervisor for 16 years. In 1965, he was president of the County Supervisors Association of California.

Right now, Stearns has no problems in his department that a good heavy, statewide rain by Sept. 15 wouldn't solve.

The conservation department, created in 1961, includes the divisions of forestry, oil and gas, soil conservation and mines and geology, and their associated boards and commissions. But forestry is by far the biggest part of the department, accounting for about 2,700 of the 3,200 employees in the department.

To date, this has been a good year for forestry as far as fires on lands under its responsibility, but Stearns and the division won't be resting easy until the first good rainstorm. And, in some years, this doesn't occur until January.

Most of the serious fires this year have been on U.S. Forest Service lands in the Pacific northwest. The southern California fires are on county areas.

This doesn't mean the state division of forestry isn't involved. Not only does it lend crews, as in the case of the big fires down south, but it provides "back up" duties for the forest service. "The forest service has moved everything it can out of California to the other western states," Stearns said. "They're about one-deep in personnel so we're

providing the back-up for them. They would do the same for us if the situation were reversed."

While the division of forestry has had no big fires this year, it's not because there weren't a lot of starts. In the last 10 days of August, there were about 400

The Men in Action on the Sacramento Scene.

fires started in California—about the normal number.

But Stearns credits the success in containing or stopping these burns to the program of initial attack.

"We use airplanes extensively," Stearns said. "They hit these fires quick, while the mobile fire crews are on their way."

The airplane attack involves dropping treated water in the fire areas. Sometimes this is directly on the fire but more often is in the path of the fire. These solutions often will keep fuel from burning for several hours, until the crews can arrive on the fire line.

The total fire fighting crew during the season amounts to about 7,000 persons, including 4,500 from the conservation camps of prison inmates. These inmate crews are well trained in their jobs. They are stationed at Susanville, Jamestown (near Sonora), at Chico in Southern California and at Garberville on the north coast. They move by buses and can be on the scene in a few hours, with a self-contained camp.

There are a number of smaller camps closer to the fire areas. Some of these were closed by the division under Reagan's economy program but Stearns said their closing has had no noticeable effect on the initial attack on the fires.

"Many of our fires this year were people starts," Stearns said. "There was one boy that set 50 fires in 10

days. We find a lot of these incendiary fires — people who seems to prefer fires to girls."

The people who provide the money for operations of forestry, the legislature, have had an attitude of downplaying fire prevention until recently. But the budget even now provides about \$26 million for fire fighting and only about \$1 million for fire prevention.

"Actually, \$3 to \$4 million of this may be going for prevention," Stearns said.

"If we stop a fire before it spreads or prevent it from reaching dwellings, this is a sort of prevention."

There are some gray areas of law interpretation in the matter of wildland fires, but the division of forestry policy is to protect the people and their dwellings at all costs. Thus a fire may be racing into some prime timber but, if a building or group of them is in danger, the crew will be moved to protect the buildings.

Under a comprehensive fire prevention law approved in 1965, the division has the tools to require homeowners in areas of its responsibility to comply with regulations. These regulations cover such things as clearing the ground of fuel near the house and taking other safety precautions.

But even though the law has been on the books for two years, many people still don't know about it and many more haven't bothered to comply.

"We don't have enough people for a thorough enforcement, except for a pilot program we have going in Butte County," Stearns said. "But our people do make a number of inspections."

"Under the law we have the authority to require them to comply with these fire prevention regulations," he said. "On the third call by one of our officers, if they haven't complied, they can explain it to a judge."

ROYCE BRIER

Is Washington Gambling That We Can Be Swayed?

There is ample reason to suspect that President Johnson and those who speak for him in exposition of the Vietnam war, are running a little gamble on you.

This is that you will become inured to, and docile under, certain military tactics which you formerly pro-

tested as dangerous, provocative and unjustified in the circumstances existing. If this is the case, it constitutes that modern trauma we call brainwashing.

A few months ago Administration spokesmen were saying almost daily that bombing targets in North Vietnam were limited to military installations, or

Opinions on Affairs of the World

those aiding enemy operations, such as oil and munitions depots, railroads and bridges. It was specifically averred that Hanoi civilian areas were not being attacked though some civilian casualties were "inevitable."

When Hanoi charged civilian areas were bombed, Washington denied it. But when a newspaperman visited Hanoi and saw bombed homes, Washington admitted it under compulsion, and said sorry.

Recently the French press reported bombing strikes near the center of Hanoi. Twenty bombers came in two waves clearly seen from the city's center, and clouds of smoke were observed in a suburb to the north.

Impartial eyewitness accounts from the scene have not been received, but a Hanoi newspaper said civilians were killed or wounded going to market, waiting for trams, and in their homes. One picture has been received showing rubble in a suburban street.

This apparently occurred just two weeks ago, and it is significant that neither Washington nor Saigon military authorities now deign to deny it. It must be assumed Washington nor Saigon military conditioning to ac-

quiesce in this particular operation.

It must also be assumed you will be prepared in due time to accept bombing in concentric circles of the city proper, and eventually strike at the downtown area.

In short, you are being "handed" by the Pentagon psychologists, who doubtless feel hurt to have to placate such a touchy American citizenry, but also feel they have ways of dealing with it successfully.

How much of this pertains to the President, who has the final decision, we have no way of knowing. One would not willingly be unfair to him.

But injustice is unlikely because the whole escalation of the war has been carried out in just this fashion for the past two years. The bombing has been extended and intensified by steps, and each step is attended by the patent falsity that it does not "enlarge" the war. Sometimes a step itself, when reported, is denied. Then if American planes are downed in the extended sector, it is at first denied the planes were there, and again admitted under compulsion.

Granted that some military operations must be concealed temporarily or for some time for security reasons, the American people have never known a war to be carried on with such cynical flimflam at the very seat of government.

